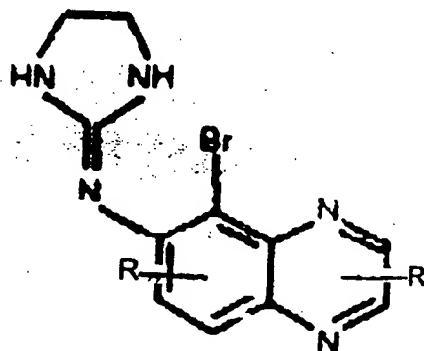


APPENDIX A
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1. (Amended) A method of treating a retinal disease or condition, which disease or condition is caused by damage, disruption, or degeneration of an RPE cell or a Muller cell, said method comprising contacting an RPE cell or a Muller cell having said disease or condition with a composition comprising a brimonidine compound in an amount effective to inhibit the retinal disease or condition.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the brimonidine compound has the following structure:



Where R is C₁₋₅ alkyl, Br, Cl or NO₂, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the brimonidine compound is brimonidine tartrate.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of brimonidine is between about 0.01% and about 0.05% in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

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5. (Amended) A method of treating a degenerative condition of retinal photoreceptors caused by damage, disruption, or degeneration of an RPE cell or a Muller cell, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a composition comprising a brimonidine compound in an amount effective to delay or reverse said condition.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the brimonidine compound is administered topically to the eye.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the amount of brimonidine provides between about 10 and about 1000 nanomolar intraocular concentration.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein said subject is a vertebrate.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said vertebrate is a mammal.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said vertebrate is a human being.

11. The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said condition is retinal detachment.

12. The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said condition is age-related macular degeneration.

13. (Twice amended) The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said condition is retinitis pigmentosa caused by mutations in genes expressed in RPE cells.

14. (Amended) A method of reversing or delaying degeneration of a Muller cell in a retina, comprising contacting said retina with a composition that includes an amount of a brimonidine compound effective to inhibit GFAP expression in Müller cells.

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15. (Amended) A method of reversing or delaying degeneration of a Muller cell in a retina, comprising contacting said retina with a composition that includes an amount of a brimonidine compound effective to stimulate upregulation of glutamine synthetase in Müller cells.

16. The method in claim 14 or 15, wherein the brimonidine compound is brimonidine tartrate.

17. The method in claim 14 or 15, wherein the contacting is by topical administration.